

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention provides: a specific water-soluble polymer exhibiting a high calcium-ion-scavenging function and further exhibiting a high clay-dispersing function even in high-hardness water; a detergent composition comprising the water-soluble polymer; and uses, other than the detergent composition, by making the best use of the characteristics of the water-soluble polymer. The specific water-soluble polymer, according to the present invention, has a calcium ion scavengeability of not less than 0.40 and further has a clay dispersibility of not less than 0.50 in high-
10 hardness water and, preferably, includes polymers A and B as essential components wherein the polymer A has a calcium ion scavengeability of not less than 0.45 and wherein the polymer B has a clay dispersibility of not less than 0.65 in high-hardness water. The detergent composition comprising this water-soluble polymer has a good detergency even in
15 high-hardness water.

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